Reports of the Sub-Committee on HIV

1197. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sub-committee appointed by the Health Ministry to look into the complaints against the working of the HIV testing kits supplied through the world Health Organisation, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major finding of the sub-Committee was that the laboratories reported false positive results on some of the known negative sera using a particular brand of HIV 1 and 2 kit. This could load to wastage of some units of blood when test is carried out for blood safety. However, on HIV infected blood will be missed by the test. The false positivity could be reduced by more number of washings than recommended by the manufacturer.

(c) The observations of the Sub-Committee have been taken note of by the Government in its further procurement of HIV test kits.

Steps to Monitor the cases of HIV Infection

1198. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a WHO report there were about 1.6 million people in India infected with HIV at the end of 1993;

(b) whether a presstigious and widely circulated Indian journal of Clinical Practice places this figure at as high as 20 million;

(c) what is Government's official estimate about these cases, State-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to correctly monitor the AIDS and HIV infection cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c): Estimates about the possible incidence of HIV infection in India are being made from time to time by various agencies, including W.H.O. These are mostly in the nature of guesses and extrapolations based on experience. No categorical statement can be made in this respect.

(d) Monitoring of HIV trends is being done through the sentinal surveillance mechanism established throughout the country. Cases of AIDS and AIDS-relates illnesses are reported by the States every month.